

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05995 121344Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /100 W
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PASS ERDA FOR SIEVERING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, IS
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF ISRAEL'S NEW MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY'S SCIATT, MR.
YITZHAK MODA'I, HEAD OF THE NEW MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. REGARDING NUCLEAR POWER, MR. MODA'I SAID THAT HE HAD
"INDICATIONS THAT THE (AUGUST 1976 AD REFERENDUM) AGREE-
MENT (WITH THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR POWER
EQUIPMENT) WILL GO THROUGH THE SENATE THIS MONTH", AND
THAT "WE HOPE FOR A GO-AHEAD". HE SAID THAT EVEN IF
THE AGREEMENT IS APPROVED NOW, THERE WILL BE A DELAY IN
ISRAEL'S LONG TERM SCHEDULE OF POWER INSTALLATION, WHICH
CALLS FOR A NUCLEAR PLANT TO BE IN OPERATION BY 1986.

3. THE MINISTER OUTLINED SEVERAL SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS
WHICH HE WILL TRY TO CARRY OUT, INDICATING THAT THESE
POLICIES ARE NOT YET FULLY DEVELOPED. IN THE SHORT
TERM HE WILL SEEK TO DIVERSIFY ISRAEL'S ENERGY SOURCES
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BY THE USE OF COAL AND NUCLEAR POWER, AN EFFORT THAT
IS NOW UNDER WAY. HE WILL ALSO TRY TO BUILD UP SUBSTANTIAL
OIL STORAGE FACILITIES TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO AN
INTERRUPTION OF SUPPLY, AND SEEK MORE FUNDING FOR OIL
EXPLORATION.

4. HE GAVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO ENERGY CONSERVATION,

SAYING THAT HE PLANS TO PUT VOLUNTARY MEASURES INTO EFFECT VERY SOON. HE MENTIONED THE RECENT GASOLINE PRICE INCREASE AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WOULD NOT HESITATE TO DO IT AGAIN". HE PLANS TO USE BOTH LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR SAVING ENERGY.

5. IN THE MEDIUM TO LONG TERM, THE MINISTER LOOKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES AS HYDRO POWER (THE MEDITERANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL), OIL SHALE AND SOLAR ENERGY. THE NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY, NOW LOCATED WITHIN THE NEW MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE (MINE&I) HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PRODUCE A LONG RANGE ENERGY PLAN FOR ISRAEL BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

6. MR. MODA'I WAS OPTIMISITC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN ISRAEL BECAUSE THERE IS NOW ABUNDANT GEOLOGICAL DATA AVAILABLE AND, AS A RESULT, PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO PUT UP MONEY FOR DRILLING. IN EARLIER YEARS, HE NOTED, THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE DATA MADE IT HARD TO FIND MONEY FOR EXPLORATION. COMMENTING ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF EXPLORATION, HE SAID THAT THERE ARE "PLENTY OF SIGNS,BUT NO OIL."

7. MR MODA'I SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATIVE ENERGY R&D WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE NEW U.S.-ISRAEL BINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL R&D FOUNDATION AS WELL AS THE JANUARY 1978 SOLAR WORKSHOP PLANNED BY ISRAELI EXPERTS WITH ERDA. LEWIS

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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